

## Featured Presenters

Tired of hearing the same type of speakers at conferences? Create2011 will feature a variety of nationally known artists, presenters and educators that you will not hear anywhere else.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Grammy-Award Winning Artist Ice-T


Ice-T has become an influential spokesman for America's youth through his music, his book, *The Ice Opinion*, and his lecture tours of America's prisons, high schools and colleges (including Harvard, Berkeley and Stanford).

Born in New Jersey, Ice-T learned the art of survival pretty fast. An only child whose parents died when he was very young, Ice-T became involved in Los Angeles gangs before spending four years in the army. **Music changed his life** and he went on to not only invent gangster rap, but is the original embodiment of LA Hip-Hop. Ice-T has received a Grammy Award and was also voted Best Male Rapper in *Rolling Stone's* 1992 Readers' Poll. His newest album, *Gangsta Rap*, was released in the fall of 2006.



As an artist, his reach has crossed from music into film and television, and interactive media. He is the voice of "Madd Dogg" on one of the hottest selling games, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*. Ice-T also plays a character in the new video game *Scarface* which came out the fall of 2006. As an author, his book, *The Ice Opinion*, was published in 1994 and has been translated into Japanese, German, French, and Italian.

Ice-T currently stars in NBC's *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* as Detective Finn. This is his fourth project with executive producer Dick Wolf after the 1997-98 series *Players*, NBC's *Exiled: A Law & Order Movie*, and several memorable guest-starring appearances on Wolf's gritty cop series *New York Undercover*. Ice-T has also just finished filming VH1's *Rap School* where he taught prep school kids how to be rappers. *Rap School* will be airing this Fall on VH1.

 **More speakers on next page. Check back often for updates on presenters. In the spring, registrants will be notified when the full schedule is complete and will be able to log back on and design their own professional development experience by selecting the sessions they want to attend.**

## SONG SESSIONS: BILLY DEAN, MONTY POWELL & ANNA WILSON



As composers and artists, Billy Dean, Monty Powell and Anna Wilson have penned singles for Keith Urban ("Days Go By" "Tonight I Wanna Cry"); Rascal Flatts ("She Goes All The Way"); Tim McGraw ("One Of These Days"); Billy Dean ("Somewhere In My Broken Heart"); Habitat for Humanity International ("A House, A Home"); and countless others. Collectively they

have sold over 60 million records and have written or recorded over a dozen chart-topping songs. They have received top honors from performing rights organizations SESAC, BMI and ASCAP, and their artistry has been recognized by the Country Music Association (CMA), the Academy of Country Music (ACM) and The Recording Industry (Grammy). Join these hit-making artists for The Guitar Pull, an intimate acoustic listening concert where the writers will perform their original works and share the behind the scenes stories of the songs and the artists who performed them.



### NATHAN SAWAYA – THE BRICK ARTIST™

Nathan Sawaya is a New York-based artist who creates awe-inspiring works out of some of the most unlikely things. His art focuses on large-scale sculptures using only toy building blocks: LEGO® bricks to be exact.



*Yellow* by Nathan Sawaya  
Photo - brickartist.com

For years, Nathan's touring exhibit – *The Art of the Brick*® – has entertained and inspired millions of art lovers and enthusiasts around the globe. It is the only exhibition focusing exclusively on LEGO as an art medium. The creations, constructed from nearly one million pieces, were built from standard bricks beginning as early as 2000.

Born in Colville, Washington and raised in Veneta, Oregon, Sawaya's childhood dreams were always fun. He drew cartoons, wrote stories, perfected magic tricks and also played with LEGO. In 1991, Sawaya moved to New York City and attended NYU. After college he rediscovered LEGO but not as a toy, but rather as a medium.

Today Sawaya has more than 1.5 million colored bricks in his New York art studio. His work is obsessively and painstakingly crafted and is both beautiful and playful. Sawaya's ability to transform LEGO bricks into something new, his devotion to scale and color perfection, the way he conceptualizes the action of the subject matter, enables him to elevate an ordinary toy to the status of fine art.

According to journalist Scott Jones, "Sawaya is a surrealist mash-up of forms and artists. Imagine Frank Lloyd Wright crossed with Ray Harryhausen, or Auguste Rodin crossed with Shigeru Miyamoto, and you start to get a sense of where Sawaya is coming from." Sawaya's art form takes shape primarily in 3-dimensional sculptures and oversized portraits. He continues to create daily while accepting commission work from around the world.

To see Sawaya's online gallery, please visit [www.brickartist.com](http://www.brickartist.com).



## JOHN JACOBSON

President George Bush named John Jacobson a Point of Light award winner for his “dedication to providing young people opportunities to combine music, charitable giving and community service.” John is the founder and volunteer president of America Sings! Inc., a non-profit organization that encourages young performers to use their time and talents for community service.

With a bachelor’s degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master’s Degree in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University, John is recognized internationally as a creative and motivating speaker for teachers and students involved in choral music education. He is the author and composer of many musicals and choral works that have been performed by millions of children worldwide, as well as educational videos and tapes that have helped music educators excel in their individual teaching arenas.

He has staged hundreds of huge music festival ensembles in his association with Walt Disney Productions and directed productions featuring thousands of young singers including NBC's national broadcast of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, presidential inaugurations and more. John stars in children's musical and exercise videotapes, most recently the series J-jump! A Fitness Program for Children and is the Senior Contributing Writer for John Jacobson's Music Express magazine.

## READING IN MOTION



Reading In Motion's mission is to get every at-risk kindergarten through third grade student reading at or above grade level, through the power and discipline of the arts. To accomplish this we partner with schools and teachers to create and deliver an innovative supplemental reading program that uses music and drama to engage students. Reading In Motion is currently in close to 120 Chicago Public School classrooms and has helped more than 45,000 students since it was founded in 1983.

Reading In Motion lesson plans allow children to get out from behind their desks and use their entire bodies and minds to master reading skills. These engaging activities are carefully tailored to the grade and developmental level of the students.

Reading In Motion's educational techniques have been proven to raise test scores through numerous research studies.



## MINTON SPARKS

It's mighty hard to envision singular performances by a poet and short story author, a character actor and a songwriter being offered on a single bill. That is, until one Minton Sparks takes the stage. For she is all three, a lean, literate livewire in a flower print church dress who balances writerly, theatrical and musical gifts as easily as she balances the prop pocketbook on her slender wrist.

Sparks writes flesh-and-blood vignettes about small town southern family members, and delivers words in beelines of bluesy rhythm backed solely by the nimble acoustic guitar work of John Jackson, who's perhaps best known for having played with Bob Dylan. And she inhabits each character in full-bodied fashion; now buckdancing, now chicken strutting, now delivering gossip with a self-righteous shrug.

She's performed in the American Songbook Series at the Lincoln Center, appeared at the venerable Old Towne School of Folk Music, served as teller-in-residence at the Jonesborough National Storytelling Festival, gotten invited to the prestigious Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival, been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, shared the stage with the likes of Rodney Crowell, John Prine and Nanci Griffith.



## VLAD GUTKOVICH: FLOCABULARY

Flocabulary produces educational hip-hop music and engaging curricular materials to teach academic content for grades K-12. The programs are proven to raise scores on state reading tests and are being used in over 10,000 schools nationwide. Heralded as "groundbreaking" and "necessary," Flocabulary has been featured on The Today Show, Oprah & Friends, and MTV.



Vlad Gutkovich joined Flocabulary in 2008, bringing with him a wide range of experience in teaching, music and marketing. After graduating from Wesleyan University with High Honors in Music and a Certificate in International Relations, Vlad worked as a producer/composer for a music production house, while freelancing as a children's music specialist for various organizations throughout the city. Vlad has performed at hundreds of concerts as a drummer and bandleader, playing venues including B.B. King's, Joe's Pub and Lincoln Center. He is thrilled to be a part of Flocabulary, where his skills as a businessman, artist and activist are challenged and utilized as never before.



## OLIVIA GUDE

School of Art + Design, University of Illinois at Chicago



A Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Gude was awarded the National Art Education Association's 2009 Viktor Lowenfeld Award for significant contributions to the field of art education. Gude is the Founding Director of the Spiral Workshop, a curriculum research project that provides art classes for urban teens. Recent articles and Spiral Workshop curriculum are available on the Spiral Art Education website— <http://spiral.aa.uic.edu> — and on the National Art Education Association e-Portfolios <http://naea.digication.com/omg/Welcome/>

Her current research focuses on identifying new paradigms for structuring visual art curriculum, including the articles, "Postmodern Principles: In Search of a 21st Century Art Education" and "Principles of Possibility: Considerations for a 21st Century Art and Culture Curriculum."



Gude is a member of the Educational Advisory Board of Art 21, the PBS documentary series about contemporary art. She is a member of the Council on Policy Studies in Art Education and is on the Advisory Board of Gallery 37 High School in Chicago.

Gude is a public artist who has created over 50 mural and mosaic projects, often working with inter-generational groups, teens, elders, and children. Gude has received many grants, commissions, and awards, including two National Endowment for the Arts grants to create public artworks (1993 and 2004), an Arts Midwest Regional Fellowship in Painting (1996), and a State of Illinois Fellowship for Outstanding Achievement in the Visual Arts (1991). Gude is a Senior Artist of the Chicago Public Art Group and the editor of CPAG's on-line Community Public Art Guide: Making Murals, Mosaics, Sculptures, and Spaces. [www.cpag.net](http://www.cpag.net) Her writing on community-based public art includes "Innovators and Elders, Painting in the Streets," a chapter in *Cultural Activisms: Poetic Voices, Political Voices* and the book *Urban Art Chicago: a Guide to Community Murals, Mosaics, and Sculptures* (written with Jeff Huebner).

Olivia Gude frequently presents lectures and workshops on the transformation of art education, introducing contemporary art to K-12 students and adults, community art practices, and on her work as a collaborative public artist. She has presented in many university and museum settings, including the University of Texas Austin, the University of British Columbia, The Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Toronto, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Walker Art Center, the Dallas Art Museum, and Chicago's Art Institute and Museum of Contemporary Art. Gude works with art teachers to foster the collaborative creation of new curriculum models in urban and suburban school districts, including the Chicago Public Schools, Atlanta Public Schools, Fort Worth Independent School District, and the Los Angeles United School District. Gude has served as the keynote speaker for state art education conferences in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Utah as well as for Manitoba Association for Art Education and Canadian Society for Education through Art conferences in Ontario and in British Columbia.



### **DR. JAMES PAUL GEE**

Dr. James Paul Gee is a member of the National Academy of Education and is currently the Mary Lou Fulton Presidential Professor of Literacy Studies for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Arizona State University. His book *Sociolinguistics and Literacies* (1990) was one of the founding documents in the formation of the "New Literacies

Studies," an interdisciplinary field devoted to studying language, learning, and literacy in an integrated way in the full range of their cognitive, social, and cultural contexts. His most recent books both deal with video games and learning. *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy* (2003) offers 36 reasons why good video games produce better learning conditions than many of today's schools. *Situated Language and Learning* (2004) places video games within an overall theory of learning and literacy and shows how they can help us to better understand deep human learning and lead us in thinking about the reform of schools.

Dr. Gee started his career in theoretical linguistics, working in syntactic and semantic theory, and taught initially at Stanford University and later in the School of Language and Communication at Hampshire College in Amherst Massachusetts. He went on to teach in the School of Education at Boston University, where he established new graduate programs centered around an integrated approach to language and literacy, combining programs in reading, writing, bilingual education, ESL, and applied linguistics. Prof. Gee's work over the last decade has centered on the development of an integrated theory of language, literacy, and schooling. This work has served as a theoretical base for a number of school-based projects run by the Hiatt center at Clark University in elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as in an after-school science project funded by the Spencer Foundation.



### **SHERRY NORFOLK**

Master storyteller Sherry Norfolk is an internationally acclaimed performer, consultant, teaching artist, workshop leader, and keynote speaker. Named "2010 Outstanding Artist in Residence" by the Tennessee Arts Commission, Sherry is co-author of the award-winning *Literacy Development in the Storytelling Classroom*, a 2009 *Storytelling World Resource Award Winner*.

Holding a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Masters in Library Science, Sherry Norfolk has been a professional storyteller since 1981. She uses folktales from around the world to teach universal values, elevate understanding and acceptance of other cultures, and enhance literacy skills.

Sherry served as a consultant on Turner South's "Stories to Learn By" initiative and has been recognized with national awards from the American Library Association, the Association for Library Service for Children, the National Association of Counties, and the Florida Library Association. She is past Chair of the Board and President of the National Storytelling Network. Sherry frequently performs at schools, libraries, festivals and conferences in the Singapore International Storytelling Festival & Congress, the Singapore American School, the Hong Kong International School, the Surabaya International School, the TalkStory Conference in Waikiki, Hawaii, and the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee.